

Message Text

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12

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 INT-08 AF-10 CIAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

UNCLAS STATE 233586

SUBJ: IRISH CONCERN ABOUT PHOSPHATE ROCK PRICE INCREASE

REF: DUBLIN 1497

1. IRISH REPORT ON PHOSPHATE ROCK PRICE INCREASE IS CORRECT. US CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZER TRADE PRESS ALSO HAVE REPORTED MOROCCAN INCREASE.
2. US PRICE (PHOSPHATE ROCK EXPORT CORPORATION) HAS INCREASED ABOUT 80 PERCENT WITH REMOVAL FROM PRICE CONTROLS ON DOMESTIC BUSINESS FOR FERTILIZERS AND FERTILIZER MATERIALS (COST OF LIVING COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT, OCT. 25). TH US AND WORLD HAS SHORT-TIGHT SUPPLY. PHOSROCK CORP. ALSO REPORTED THAT THEY WOULD REDUCE EXPORTS NEXT YEAR IN ORDER HELP MEET DOMESTIC NEEDS.
3. THE OFFICE CHERIFEN DES PHOSPHATES, MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT AGENCY, WHICH CONTROLS PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS, APPEARS TO HAVE ATTITUDE OF TAKING WHAT MARKET WILL BEAR, AND MAY OVER ONG PERIOD DRIVE GOOD CUSTOMERS AWAY BY THEIR HIGH PRICE. IT CERTAINLY PAYS CONSUMERS WORLD OVER NOT TO PUT ALL THEIR EGGS IN ONE BASKET.

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4. OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE PHOSPHATE ROCK RESERVES WHICH ARE BEING EXPANDED ARE TOGO, SENEGAL, USSR AND SPANISH MOROCCO.

5. US SUPPLY INCREASES FOR NEXT SEVERAL YEARS DO NOT LOOK PROMISING. MUCH OF OUR IMMEDIATE FUTURE COMMITMENTS ARE FOR EXPORT OF MANUFACTURED FERTILIZERS AND MATERIALS. ANY ADDITIONAL OR EARLY INCREASE IN ROCK OUTPUT FOR EXPORT ARE NOT EXPECTED BECAUSE OF ENERGY-POWER SHORTAGES AND TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS.
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